



THE "OLD BARRACKS," ATLANTA, GA. THE NEW LOCATION OF SPELMAN IN 1883

heaven then and be better acquainted." And this woman lived to graduate and do mission work.

Stories of "Basement Days"

Interesting stories are told of these "basement days" in the "Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary," as the school was then known. Many of the students were beyond the school age, but how eagerly they came to learn to read and write, and how glad they were when they could read their Bibles. One woman was very much delighted when she found that she could read the verse from which her father's "funeral" was preached. One woman got up in the night to read her Bible lest she should forget how to read before morning.

They used to pray that their teachers might have long patience. Girls had to learn to write kneeling on the floor that they might use their seats for desks. The stove smoked so badly that there was often suffering from smarting, tear-blinded eyes, and it was difficult to distinguish teachers from pupils. When it rained, the water came in, and to protect the teachers' feet from the

damp earth, the women made rugs of grain bags for them to stand upon. Some days it was too dark for them to see to read, but they could always pray. Students were plentiful, but what a schoolhouse! A place for a boarding school was needed. The "Old Barracks" of the United States troops stationed in Atlanta, where there were several large frame buildings, were in the market, but there was no money.

A Student's Prayer Answered

One of the students often looked up from her window to the barracks hill, and prayed, "O Lord, please give us jes' one or two of them buildings for our school. I doan' know how you can do it, but you know." The Lord did know, and he gave four officers' houses for dormitories, and the hospital for a chapel and schoolroom, in 1883. This was the way of it. An Educational Society had been organized among the Negro Baptists of Georgia, which had already laid by \$3,000. This they brought forward.